

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A novelty or entertainment device comprising:  
a housing in the form of a sea shell;  
a sound reproduction system mounted to said housing so as to remain hidden from casual visual inspection of said housing; and  
a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound reproduction system for activating same in response to a lifting of said housing to an ear of a user.

2. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said switch is a gravity switch.

3. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said switch is connected to a proximity detector for sensing nearness of a surface to a mouth of said housing.

4. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sea shell is in the form of a conch shell.

5. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sound reproduction system includes a solid-state memory, a power source, and an electroacoustic transducer.

6. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sound reproduction system includes a memory storing a plurality of different sound bites and means for accessing different ones of said sound bites on successive activations of said sound reproduction

system by said switch.

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7. A novelty or entertainment method comprising:  
providing a housing in the form of a sea shell; and  
in response to a removal of said housing from a stationary storage position  
towards an ear of a user, reproducing a predetermined sound so that the reproduced  
sound may be perceived by the user.

8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein the sound includes a verbal message.

9. The method defined in claim 7, further comprising automatically sensing a  
movement of said housing, the reproducing of said sound being induced upon the  
sensing of said movement.

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